



# The Lacombe Legion



Volume 12 - Winter

Zone 3 District 4

Winter - 2004

## Important Seminar



The Lacombe Legion Branch #79 and the Lacombe FCSS are co-operating to produce a Seniors' Information Seminar. Topics will be of special interest to veterans, their families and seniors. This Seminar is open to Legion veterans, all area veterans, Branch members and senior citizens in the community .

Suzanne Shaw, AB-NWT Command Service Officer, Northern Region, has been invited to participate. Comrade Shaw is well informed in Legion operations and will provide current information relating to Veterans Affairs and other matters.

Comrade John Parsons of Parsons' Holiday Tours has again offered a 16 passenger bus for the veterans who are without transportation. The Handivan will be available to veterans in wheelchairs at no charge. We don't want them to miss this very important session!

The date is Saturday February 28, 2004 at 1:00 P.M. The meeting will take place in the Lacombe Legion Hall.

## New Year's Eve Party

The Branch New Year's Eve party was a great success.

About 40 people attended the party and the Old Year was sent out with much laughter, music and dancing and the New Year brought in with champagne and a midnight lunch.

Comrade Jim Rose, coordinator for this event, put it together with his army of volunteers right down to volunteer bar tenders.

A big "Thank You" to those who helped make it the success it was.

**Everyone had a great time.**

*Joyce Bradford, Roving Reporter*

## Christmas Party Cancelled

President John Robinson cancelled the Branch Christmas party!

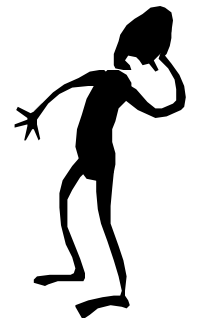
*No! He is not a grinch!*

*Due to poor advance ticket sales, he had to make a judgement call; let the Christmas party go ahead at a substantial loss to the Branch, or disappoint the few people who purchased advance tickets and cancel it. Although not a popular decision with some members it was a good one for the Branch.*

*The Branch cannot operate a function at a loss even if it is Christmas.*

*If you plan on attending a Branch function get your tickets early or risk the disappointment of your evening out being cancelled.*

*Joyce Bradford, Roving Reporter*



## Legion Million Dollar Lottery



Your support through the Legion Million Dollar Lottery is invaluable. Each ticket purchased gives you the chance for cash prizes worth over 1.2 million dollars. The proceeds raised directly assist the funding of youth citizenship programs, housing projects, medical research and equipment and seniors' programs where you live.

**Lest We Forget**



## Sick and Visiting

Comrade and Veteran  
Ole Halberg, is home from  
the hospital.



*We wish for you a speedy and full recovery*

*Doris Ahlquist, Chairman*

**Thank you,  
Comrade Joyce Bradford,  
for your NEWS  
contributions to the Branch  
newsletter.  
You made it happen!**



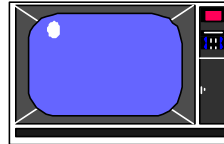
## Lest We Forget Comrade and Veteran Charlie Huseby

Born September 23, 1925

Passed away December 20, 2003

The Lacombe Branch #79 offers heartfelt  
condolences to the family.

## T.V. Raffle



A 32" Panasonic TV is being  
raffled off on April 1, 2004.

Tickets \$2.00 each.

Only 1,000 tickets printed.

Tickets available at the Lounge.

## Lacombe Legion Branch #79

### Branch Hours

Monday to Saturday inclusive 3:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

### Weekly Activities

Monday	Bingo	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	Darts	7:30 p.m.
Wednesday	Cribbage	7:00 p.m.
Friday	Meat Draws	6:30 p.m.
Thursday	Action Group	2:00 p.m.
Saturday	Meat Draws	4:30 p.m.
1st Saturday	Court Whist	7:00 p.m.
3rd Saturday	Military Whist	7:00 p.m.
Phone	Ruth Hoppus	782-5365
	Marie Long	782-2186

### Meetings

#### Lacombe Branch #79

General Meeting 1st Thursday 7:30 p.m.

Executive Meeting Last Thursday : 7:30 p.m.

#### Ladies' Auxiliary

General Meeting 1st Thursday 7:00 p.m.

Executive Meeting 3rd Tuesday 7:00 p.m.

## Royal Canadian Legion

5138 49 Street  
Lacombe Alberta  
T4L 1J2

Phone (403) 782 6441  
Fax (403) 782 2077  
Kitchen (403) 782 7888  
E-mail [rcl79@telusplanet.net](mailto:rcl79@telusplanet.net)  
Web site [lacombelegion.com](http://lacombelegion.com)

## That's Not My Job

This is a story about four people named Everybody,  
Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done and Everybody  
was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could  
have done it, but Nobody did it.

Somebody got angry about that because it was  
Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could  
do it, but Nobody realised that Everybody wouldn't  
do it.

It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when  
Nobody did what Anybody could have."

## Have You Heard . . . ?

A group of chess enthusiasts checked into a hotel and  
were standing in the lobby discussing their recent  
tournament victories.

After about an hour, the manager came out of the  
office and asked them to disperse.

But why?" they asked, as they moved off.

"Because," he said, "I can't stand chess nuts boasting  
in an open foyer!"



Did you hear about the Buddhist who refused  
Novocain during a root canal?

He wanted to transcend dental medication.



## Ladies Auxiliary Notes

*Elsie Suter, Reporter*

### Introducing . . .

the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #79  
Ladies Auxiliary for the year 2004.



(Standing -left to right)

Name	Office
Gwen Duffy	Sgt. at Arms
Jean Spencer	Executive member
Onagh Lidster	Executive member
Joyce Hunt	Executive member
Eva Whittaker	Branch member
Velma Price	Executive member
Edith Hustad	Secretary
Carol Albers	Treasurer
(seated - left to right)	
Elsie Suter	Executive member
Trudy Friesen	2st Vice President
Joan Robak - call 782-3905	President
Gloria Rogers	District 4 Commander
Doris Dicknoether	Executive member
(Missing)	
Jean Bruns	Past President



**February 14!**

## Events

### Congratulations to Isabelle Dermott

on her 90th birthday. An "Open House" was held in the Kozy Korner on Saturday, Feb 7.

**Jan 26** - Several ladies organized a B-I-N-G-O afternoon at the Senior's Lodge. This is a well attended and much appreciated event.

A good time was had by all.

**April 30** - A White Elephant Sale will be held in the Legion Hall. Each table will rent for \$10.00. Bring your saleable treasures, both new and old!

Hours of operation - 9:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

**May** - Veterans Afternoon Tea.

Veterans are invited to bring their 'significant other' to this special event.

**May** - Vets Night

This annual event is a special project of the Ladies Auxiliary!

We take pride in honouring all local area veterans with a dinner on the anniversary of the end of WWII.

The ranks are thinning, but about 60 veterans come to enjoy the company of "Comrades-in-Arms" and old friends.

This is an open invitation to all veterans, not only Legion members.

Korean War veterans and Peacetime veterans are also included.



## Visit us on the Web

The Lacombe Branch # 79 at  
[www.lacombelegion.com](http://www.lacombelegion.com)

The Royal Candian Legion at  
[www.legion.ca](http://www.legion.ca)

# Legion Sports

## Dart Players Advance

At the Zone playoffs of Mixed darts held in Bashaw on Dec 13<sup>th</sup> the team of Dave and Cheryl Swarbrick, Val Brick and Al Bunn placed 2<sup>nd</sup>. Two teams were entered from Branch #79 with the top four teams advancing to District level. Zone playoffs of all Dart categories are now completed.

Congratulations to all players who advance to District level in the categories of Legion darts, Mixed darts and Senior Mixed darts. Playoffs for District levels take place in January at other hosting Branches.

## Dart Players Advance (again)

The Senior Mixed dart team of Rod Oberg, Faye Chomoway, Madeleine Babiuk, Jim Pratt and ‘Spare’ Pauline Oberg travelled to Rocky Mountain House on the weekend of January 03 and 04 to compete in the District level of Senior Mixed Darts. They played well enough to advance to the Provincial Level.

Congratulations to all and good luck on the next leg of your journey to High Prairie for the Provincial playoffs on March 12<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup>.

The Mixed Dart team travelled to Innisfail on January 10<sup>th</sup> for their District level. They didn’t fare as well and will not be advancing to Provincial level.

The pool table, shuffleboard and card games are being well used. Fun Darts within the Branch will continue.

*Joyce Bradford, Roving Reporter*

### Congratulations, Les!

# 29

Crib night on Wednesday Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> had some excitement as those attending witnessed Comrade Les Jeremiah score a *perfect 29* hand.

## Membership

*Welcome*

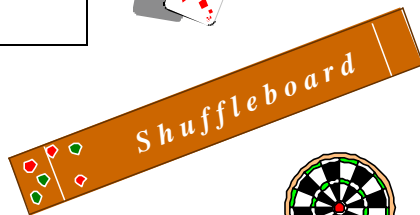
**new members - 2003**

- Ken Hulse
- Laverne Lowry
- Beverly Missler
- Lawrence Missler
- David Wilson
- Richard Green
- George Francis
- Robert Snell
- Henry Cherniwchan
- Benjamin Vanstone
- George Badger

### *“Come on down”*

and enjoy these ‘indoor sports’ and the warmth of Legion comradeship and hospitality.

Join old friends and meet with new!



"The bad things about good things is that they come to an end, and the good thing about bad things is that they also end."

*Anamaria Rabatte'y Cervi*



## An Urgent Request!

Are you related to, or know a veteran?

The Lacombe Legion Service Officer is compiling a list of the names and phone numbers of local area veterans and corresponding "crisis persons" having close ties to them.

This definitely includes non-Legion veterans!

Should the need arise, this information is important for providing available assistance for the veteran and the immediate family.

The military service number of the veteran is important.

### Please notify the Branch of veterans entering a hospital, or other "Care Giving" Facility.

Please leave the information at the Lacombe Legion,  
or call (403) 782 6441, or  
Fax (403) 782 2077.

## Remembrance Day Report

Once again our Branch Chaplain

Comrade Shealagh McClelland organised a well attended Remembrance Day service. Unfortunately she could not attend but we carried on bravely in her absence.

The day started early with some members preparing a Pancake breakfast for the community. Attendance was down for the breakfast this year. A reminder to all members to attend this opening to Remembrance Day. Bring your family, friends, neighbours. The cooks and the kitchen staff are all men from the Branch. No women have kitchen duty for this event! The men do a wonderful job every year. Some of the volunteers have been doing this for many years. Many thanks to Comrade Dave Swarbrick for organising it. Comrade Swarbrick was a volunteer for his father-in-law Comrade Harvey Whittaker who was chief cook for many years until his passing. Comrade Swarbrick has successfully carried on this family tradition of making sure that the members and public are well fed before the service.

Unfortunately due to icy roads the parade to the Memorial Centre could not start from the Legion. It is a very emotional sight to see the Color Party followed by the Legion and Youth groups parading through town as they make their way to the Memorial Centre.

Noticeably missing is a Piper. If any one knows of a Piper who would like to lead the parade, send them our way. The Branch would be grateful for a volunteer.

The Branch provides a lunch for those involved in the parade and other related functions.

Many members take part in this event.

It's a great way to visit with friends you may not have seen

## Definition of a Veteran

There has never been a definition of a veteran, prior to year 2000 for the Legion and year 2001 for Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC). Even the Pension Act did not have a definition for them!

Accordingly, on November 26, 1999 a Sub-Executive meeting introduced, a motion to adopt a definition of a veteran! It reads as follows:

**"A veteran is any person who is serving or who has served in the Armed Forces of Canada, the Commonwealth or its wartime allies or; who has served in the Merchant Navy or Ferry Command during wartime".**

This was eventually drafted into a resolution, approved by the Dominion Executive Council (DEC) and the 38th Dominion Convention held in Halifax in June year 2000.

As for the Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC), they adopted a definition of a veteran in year 2001 which read as follows:

**"VAC and the Department of National Defence (DND) have extended veteran status to former Canadian Forces members and Reserve Force members who: meet DND's Military Occupational Classification requirements (MOC qualified); and have been released from the Forces with an Honourable Discharge".**

Information provided by,  
M. Suzanne Shaw,  
AB/NWT Command,  
Service Officer, Northern Region

for awhile.

Pot Luck supper starts about 5:00 p.m. Most members bring a dish and the Ladies Auxiliary spends many hours in the kitchen preparing and heating the food. From their efforts and the food brought by those attending, everyone is assured of a delicious meal.

The Ladies Auxiliary raffled a food hamper after selling tickets throughout the day. Congratulations to Marie Cleveland who was the lucky winner.

**Thanks to the generous donations, to the Poppy Fund the Branch has \$10,330 available for veteran, family and community support.**

This amount is less than in year 2002.

Joyce Bradford, Roving Reporter



## Poppy and Remembrance

### Thank You:

☞☞ Comrade Rod and Pauline Oberg  
for the successful Poppy Campaign.

Don't ask how many hours they worked!

☞☞ Branch Chaplain Shealagh McClelland for organizing the Remembrance Day program.

☞☞ The participating church ministers.

☞☞ Comrade John Parsons (**Parson's Holiday Tours**) for donating the bus used to transport Legion members visiting the Lacombe, Blackfalds and Bentley Schools.

This contribution goes back for many years!

☞☞ Virginia Kemp for the 'whirlwind' volunteer assistance in the lounge on Remembrance Day.

☞☞ All the men who did 'kitchen duty' making breakfast and giving our hard-working ladies a well deserved break.

☞☞ The school teachers for teaching the children the reasons for Remembrance.

☞☞ The students who contributed poems, essays and posters for the Remembrance challenge.

☞☞ The Town of Lacombe for the generous use of the Lacombe Memorial Centre (LMC).

☞☞ The Fire Department for sheltering the parade participants in the fire hall.

☞☞ The Town of Lacombe merchants for selling Poppies, their financial contributions and displaying the Wreaths of Remembrance.

☞☞ The Branch members for selling poppies, wreaths, school visitations and other vital tasks.

☞☞ Prairie Bus Lines of Red Deer for treating the 16 school-visitation Legion volunteers to a "Smorg" at Leto's.

☞☞ Red Deer Legion Pipe Band (Bentley School).

☞☞ The Youth Groups and their Leaders (Cadet Corps, Scouts, Guides, Brownies, . . .)

☞☞ The Lion's Club Band.

☞☞ The Local Police Department for traffic control.

☞☞ The citizens who donated so generously to the Poppy Campaign.

☞☞ . . . and so many others who made this time of Remembrance a success.

**The veterans and community will benefit from your contributions and volunteer work!**

*Comrade Bill Suter,  
Publicity Chairman*



### School Visitations

Branch members supporting the Lacombe Christian High School in their Remembrance program



**Branch #79 President John Robinson** presenting **Danielle Bennik**, a student at the Lacombe Christian High School with the 1st prize for her poster in the Senior Category of the Remembrance Contest sponsored by the Alberta/NWT Command.

**Congratulations, Danielle!**

### Amzanig

Accdrnig to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mttar in aht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoentn tihg is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be at the rghit pclae. The rset can sitll raed it wouthit porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamm mnid deos not raed ervey lteler by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe.

Amzanig, huh??

## Legion Sunset Campground

**L**acombe Branch #79 operates the *Sunset Legion Campground* (located on the west side of Gull Lake) with Brian and June MacIntosh as Facility Operators. The Branch and the Facility Operators have recently renewed the contract for three-years.

Two years ago, following the Walkerton, Ontario water crisis, I requested Mr. and Mrs. MacIntosh to forward water samples for the government to test and ensure the drinking water was safe. Each month during the summer they forward to me a monthly report on what is happening at the campground and also, the results of monthly water tests. It is tested for Coliforms and E.Coli, and these are absent in the samples tested. The campground water is safe. We had to ensure that if a camper at the campground complained about the water making them sick, we were legally protected.

We had to ensure our water was safe, as some campers carelessly neglect to clean out their personal water holding tanks.

Over the last number of years the campground Operators had held a Family day at the campground with no cost to the Legion. They supplied the sleigh rides, cleared a space on the lake for skating, BBQ'd 'smokies' and hamburgers. Unfortunately this year only 8 couples showed up for this event. It seems that this event will be cancelled due to lack of support.

During May 2003 clean-up starts with painting, gathering fallen leaves and preparing the shower house for operation. The May long week-end felt more like winter and the campground was about half full.

During the summer it was hot and dry. A fire-ban was imposed in National and Provincial Parks. Campfires were still allowed at the campground.

The camping season was not great as far as campers attending was concerned.

During the last couple of years the water level has been dropping in the lake causing some problems with the dock and boat launch. We can not add rocks, dirt, or sand to the water without authorization from Environment Authorities.

The night of August 27 was the first night of an all night rain, which was welcomed by everyone.

This past summer a number of boats anchored in the water had stereo equipment and speakers stolen from them.. Water skiing equipment was not touched. Rimbe R.C.M.P. attended and are investigating.

Early September young people drove to the old Carrol house and set it on fire. The R.C.M.P. are investigating and have suspects, thanks to the vigilance of the campground operators.

The year-end party was a success with approximately 100 people attending. The Band played well into the night.

Over the years a great deal of work was done to make this a first class camping experience.

The Branch receives a financial benefit from the campground and needs your support. If you have never been there, drop in and say hello to the genial hosts, Brian and June.

The campground is a quiet and safe place to be and by camping there you support YOUR Legion.

This more or less covers what goes on at the campground.

*Comrade Al Bunn,  
Vice-President, and  
Campground Chairman*

"There are only two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children. One is roots, the other is wings."

*Hodding Carter*



"We are born alone; we live alone; and we die alone.

We should, therefore, appreciate those that make the journey through Life a pleasant, or even a tolerable experience."

*Yul Brunner*

## The Royal Canadian Legion

Community service - financial and volunteer assistance to a wide range of charities.

- ✂✂ The Legion pays \$6.8 million in property taxes annually.
- ✂✂ Employs 2,150 full time and 3,400 part time employees.
- ✂✂ Annually spends \$2 million on direct support to needy veterans and contributes 852,000 hours of volunteer time assisting veterans, ex service members and their families.
- ✂✂ Commits \$150,000 to veterans and seniors housing projects annually.
- ✂✂ Spends \$2 million on direct support to seniors and contributes over 447,000 hours of volunteer time assisting senior citizens on an annual basis.
- ✂✂ Spends \$5.1 million a year on direct support to youth activities and contributes 440,000 hours in volunteer time with young Canadians.
- ✂✂ Donates more than \$11.1 million to local charities and 808,000 hours annually to charitable agencies.

It is estimated that the Legion's annual economic impact on communities exceeds \$348 million.

*Source Legion Website - Year 2004*

### Friends

After the years have led us  
far from this busy day,  
After your step grows weary  
After my hair grows gray.  
Then we shall need each other  
More than we now can see,  
After we learn how precious,  
Friendships like that can be.  
After the shadows lengthen  
Bringing our eventide,  
After we near sunset,  
Still walking side by side.  
Then we shall know more truly  
How much the heart depends,  
Whether in joy or sorrows,  
On one or two good friends.

*Lawrence Hawthorne*



'Been a little  
s l u g g i s h'

about paying your dues?  
Maybe this reminder will  
help you pick up the pace:

- ?? Legion Magazine
- ?? Access to Legion Facilities
- ?? Command Sports participation
- ?? Community Service
- ?? Member in Good Standing

*Don't lose it all.*

*Renew your membership today!*

**Amount Due - \$35.00**

**It's a Bargain !!!**

*Babette Dorn, Membership Chairman*

### The Sentinel . . .

newspaper is once again back in production!  
This tabloid is intended to link all Branches in the Alberta-Northwest Territories Command; to share information and, hopefully, make branches in this Command stronger.

They invite and appreciate suggestions and constructive criticism. It will be produced 4 times a year and is available to all current members. As with all volunteer organizations, we depend almost entirely on members for the news.

#### Lacombe Branch #79 Donations by Group Type to December 1, 2003

Recipient	Amount
Community Donations	\$4,500.00
Red Cross Badger Relief Fund	300.00
Cancer Society -Walk for Life	300.00
Lacombe Senior Activities	500.00
Veteran's & Family Assistance	1,500.00
Lacombe Education Awards	4,300.00
Lacombe Youth Sports Groups	5,443.32
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$16,843.32</b>

**I**n the pre-dawn darkness of Sunday, June, 25th 1950, 135,000 troops of the North Korean People's Army attacked South Korea! The ground was wet from the beginning of monsoon rains. The main invasion thrust was a direct route to Seoul, the capital of the Republic of Korea (South Korea). The United Nations condemned the attack and Canada joined 15 other nations to resist the aggression.

United States President Harry Truman ordered U.S. troops into action under the banner of the United Nations. Five other nations offered assistance, but for political expediency opted to supply medical services rather than send their citizens into combat roles.

Although it was not reported, it is estimated that several hundred First Nations peoples served on the battlefields and also at sea in Korea.

On November 26, 1950, China entered the war on the side of North Korea and Allied Forces were forced south again to positions well below the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel.

By mid-1951, the Allies had pushed the Chinese and North Koreans back across the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel. Cease fire negotiations were initiated and dragged on.. A period of static warfare set in.

By the time the civil war of the Koreas had ended, six million of their countrymen, civilian and military personnel had perished. Nearly half a million Communist Chinese "comrades-in-arms" of the North Koreans, soldiers of the People's Liberation Army, were killed in action.

The United States who supplied the largest contingent for the United Nations Command suffered 103,284 wounded, 54,236 deaths including 33,629 killed in combat and 8,177 missing in action. Canada's casualties totaled 1,558 including 516 who died. The total number of UN Forces (including South Korea) killed, wounded or missing was 996,937.

The tragedy of Korea had its roots in world politics. The Korean peninsula was divided into North and South at the 38th parallel, not by the Korean people, but by the United States and the Soviet Union.

It was meant to be a temporary demarcation pending unification of two opposing ideologies.

On July 30<sup>th</sup> 1950, three Canadian destroyers: Cayuga, Athabaskan and Sioux arrived in Sasebo, Japan, under

## **The Forgotten War** (1950-1953) *Korea*

*The year, 2003 marked the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Cease Fire in the Korean War, but not the end of the war . . . !*

orders to sail for Korean waters, the first Canadians to see action in Korea. Five other Tribal Class destroyers, Crusader, Huron, Iroquois, Nootka, Haida, served

under UN Command during the war. Also in July, #426 Transport Squadron, Royal Canadian Air Force, flew the first of 600 round trips to the Far East carrying more than 13,000 passengers and 3,000,000

kilograms of freight. In addition, twenty-two RCAF fighter pilots and a number of technical officers were attached to the U.S. Fifth Air Force in Korea.

Tragedy struck Canadian troops early! At Canoe River, B.C. on November 21, 1950, 17 gunners of the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery

were killed caused by a head-on collision of a passenger and the troop train. (As in many events of the Korean War, this tragedy was buried in archives until a cairn was erected and dedicated on May 21, 1990.)

A few weeks later, the first contingent of Canadians, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry arrived in Korea. The following April, this unit was awarded a U.S. Presidential Unit Citation for preventing an enemy breakthrough of the UN lines at Kap'yong.

In May 1951 the 25<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Brigade, comprised of the Second Battalions of the Royal Canadian Regiment, and of the Royal 22e Régiment along with supporting arms, entered the Korean theatre. In June, 2<sup>nd</sup> PPCLI which had been attached to the 28<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Brigade, rejoined the 25<sup>th</sup>, which in turn became part of the First Commonwealth Division. The Brigade's first important battle took place at Chail-li at the end of May.

During the summer and fall of 1951 the UN forces continued their advance to the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel, during which time peace talks were held in Kaesong and later in Panmunjom. Opposing armies dug in. The enemies faced each other across a no-man's-land ranging from a few hundred metres in width to several kilometres.

During this phase of the war, and until the cease-fire of 27 July 1953, bloody battles raged for strategic high ground.

Battlegrounds such as the Sami-chon Valley, hills numbered 187, 227, 166, 113, 159, 355 and 'The Hook' rank prominently in Korean War Canadian military history.

The fighting ended with the signing of the Korea Armistice Agreement on July 27, 1953. but no formal end to the Korean War was ever concluded.

A Military Demarcation Line was fixed and the opposing armies withdrew two kilometres from the line to establish a buffer – the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ).

The peacekeeping years began with constant observation and patrolling of the 244 kilometre DMZ. The buffer stretched from the Yellow Sea on the west coast of the Korean peninsula to the Sea of Japan on the east coast.

The Canadian sector included some of their former battlegrounds such as Hill 355, a permanent monument to courage, battle and bloodshed.

Canada's contribution may have been a small portion of the total UN effort, but it was considerable in proportion to our population. In total, 26,791 Canadians served in the Korean War and another 7,000 served in the theatre between the cease-fire and the end of 1955. The names of 516 Canadian dead are inscribed in the Korean War Book of Remembrance.

The troops contended with the same natural elements as that of their predecessors – summer heat, dust, torrential rains and the freezing cold of winter. And in concert, the knowledge that theirs was a dangerous mission; for if the North launched another full-scale invasion, the likelihood of their survival would be extremely doubtful. .

The RCAF made its final transport flight to the Far East in June 1954 and the last RCN ship left Korean waters in September 1955.

The Canadian brigade's operational role in Korea ended on November 8, 1954. The Second Battalion, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada left for home on April 6, 1955 – the last Canadian infantry battalion to serve in Korea.

By February 1956 there were only about 40 Canadians remaining in Korea; all members of the Medical and Dental Corps.

The last to leave was the Canadian Medical Detachment, which sailed from Inchon on June 28, 1957.

The cease-fire still holds, although at times badly battered by innumerable violations of the Armistice

Agreement by the North, ranging from fire-fights in the DMZ (and tunnels dug under it) to confrontations at sea.

After 49 years the DMZ is still patrolled; a duty shared by U.S. and ROK troops. Korea is located in northeast Asia, which lies south of Russia and China. Its southern tip is within 120 kilometres of Japan, and the two are separated by the Sea of Japan. Korea is separated from China on the west by the Yellow Sea.

*South Korea is located below the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel. Its official name is the Republic of Korea, and the capital city is Seoul. Korea is located in northeast Asia, which lies south of Russia and China. Its southern tip is within 120 kilometres of Japan, and the two are separated by the Sea of Japan. Korea is separated from China on the west by the Yellow Sea. Korea is known as the "Land of the Morning Calm," but its history has been far from peaceful.*

South Korea erected a monument bearing this inscription:

***"We'll never forget you brave sons of Canada"***

in English, French and Korean, along with the names of the 516 Canadian soldiers who died serving in the Korean War. The design also conveys the message of peace, the goal of all who served in Korea.

The above information was gleaned from a Korean Veteran's Association website at  
[www.kvacanada.com](http://www.kvacanada.com)

A Lacombe family member died in the conflict

